

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 1. – 29. *(Canceled).*

30. *(Previously Presented)* A device for steeping barley, comprising
a container structured and arranged for steeping barley having a floor structured and
arranged for supporting the barley;
passageways arranged in the floor for at least one of steeping water and gases to pass
through; and
a water line system located under the floor and directly connected to the passageways.

31. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 30, wherein the water line
system is structured to discharge water from the container through the passageways.

32. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 30, wherein the water line
system is structured to supply water to the container through the passageways.

33. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 30, wherein the passageways
include sieves.

34. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 30, wherein the container has a round shape when viewed from above, and wherein the passageways are arranged in radially oriented rows.

35. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 34, wherein adjacent radially oriented rows having varied lengths.

36. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 30, wherein the water line system comprises:

shared water line elements; and

water branch line elements arranged to couple the passageways to the shared water line elements.

37. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 36, wherein the shared water line elements are radially oriented.

38. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 36, wherein the shared water line elements are oriented between two adjacent, radially oriented rows of passageways when viewed from above.

39. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 36, further comprising a water line main element, wherein the shared water line elements are connected to the water main line element.

40. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 30, further comprising:
a reservoir for cleaning agents; and
a cleaning agent valve connecting the reservoir with the water line system to supply cleaning agent to the water line system.

41. *(Previously Presented)* The device according claim 30, further comprising:
a CO₂ line system located under the floor being connected directly to the passageways for removing CO₂ from the container.

42. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 41, wherein the CO₂ line system comprises:
shared CO₂ line elements; and
CO₂ branch line elements arranged to couple the passageways to the shared CO₂ line elements.

43. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 42, further comprising a CO₂ main line element, wherein the shared CO₂ line elements are connected to the CO₂ main line element.

44. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 43, wherein the water line system further comprises:

shared water line elements; and

water branch line elements arranged to couple the passageways to the shared water line elements; and

the device further comprises common shared line elements formed at least in part by the shared water line elements and the shared CO₂ line elements.

45. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 44, further comprising common branch line elements, wherein the water branch line elements and the CO₂ branch line elements are formed at least in part by the common branch line elements.

46. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 44, further comprising water valves between the common shared line elements and the water main line element.

47. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 44, further comprising CO₂ valves between the common shared line elements and the CO₂ main line element.

48. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 30, further comprising:
an air line system connected under the floor to the passageways for passing air to the container.

49. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 48, wherein the air line system further comprises:

shared air line elements; and

air branch line elements arranged to couple the passageways to the shared air line elements.

50. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 49, wherein the shared air line elements and the air branch line elements are located under the floor.

51. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 49, further comprising an air main line element, wherein the shared air line elements are connected to the air main line element.

52. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 51, further comprising air valves between the shared air line elements and the air main line element.

53. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 52, further comprising a control system for controlling individual or group operation of the air valves.

54. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 53, wherein the container further comprises:

a scraper body, positionable near an upper side of the container, structured and arranged to shift in a displacement direction along a surface of the water to one of scrape and collect elements circulating on a surface of the water.

55. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 54, wherein as the scraper body shifts in a displacement direction along the surface of the water, the control system opens at least one of the air valves directly preceding a front side of the scraper body when viewed from above in the displacement direction.

56. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 30, wherein the floor has a partially open, gas-permeable surface making up less than 5% of an overall floor surface.

57. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 30, wherein the floor has a partially open, gas-permeable surface making up less than 3% of an overall floor surface.

58. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 41, wherein the water and CO₂ line systems are graduated.

59. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 48, wherein the water and air line systems are graduated.

60. *(Previously Presented)* The device according to claim 41, wherein the water and CO₂ line systems are routed to outside the container.

61. (*Previously Presented*) The device according to claim 48, wherein the water and air line systems are routed to outside the container.

62. (*Currently amended*) A method for steeping barley, comprising:

at least one of:

passing water through passageways in a floor of a container with barley to be steeped, and

passing gas through the passageways,

wherein a water and gas supply line system is located outside of the container and is directly connected to the passageways.